Council

Distr.: Limited
18 July 2018

Original: English

Twenty-fourth session
Council session, part II
Kingston, 16–20 July 2018

Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2019–2020

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Taking into account the recommendations contained in the report of the Finance Committee,[1]

1. *Recommends* that the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority approve the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2019–2020, in the amount of $18,235,850, as proposed by the Secretary-General;

2. *Also recommends* that the Assembly adopt the following draft decision:

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority,

1. *Approves* the budget for the financial period 2019–2020, in the amount of $18,235,850, as proposed by the Secretary-General;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the significant reduction in the costs of conference services and the transfer of the resources made available by those savings to the programmes of the Authority;

3. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to establish the scale of assessments for 2019 and 2020 on the basis of the scale used for the regular budget of the United Nations for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 for the year 2019, taking into account that the ceiling assessment rate will be 22 per cent and the floor rate 0.01 per cent;

4. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General, for 2019 and 2020, to transfer between sections, subsections and programmes up to 20 per cent of the amount in each section, subsection or programme;

5. *Urges* the members of the Authority to pay their assessed contributions to the budget on time and in full;

6. *Notes with concern* the increasing amounts of outstanding contributions, appeals once more to the members of the Authority to pay

[1] ISBA/24/A/6-ISBA/24/C/19.

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outstanding contributions to the budget of the Authority from previous years as soon as possible, and requests the Secretary-General, at his discretion, to continue his efforts to recover those amounts;

7. *Urges* members and other possible donors to make voluntary contributions to the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area and the existing voluntary trust funds of the Authority;

8. *Decides* to increase the annual overhead charge referred to in section 10.5 of the standard clauses for exploration contracts from $47,000 to $60,000, effective 1 January 2019;

9. *Also decides* to revisit the possibility of using remote interpretation services for the meetings of the Assembly and the Council if outstanding technical issues, including the quality of the interpretation, can be resolved;

10. *Adopts* the terms of reference for the voluntary trust fund to support the participation of members of the Council of the International Seabed Authority from developing States in the meetings of the Council, as contained in the annex to the report of the Finance Committee.